

DEC 12 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. .... 09/598,534  
Filing Date ..... June 21, 2000  
Inventor(s) ..... LaMacchia et al.  
Confirmation No. .... 6764  
Group Art Unit ..... 2132  
Examiner ..... Gurshman, Grigory  
Applicant ..... Microsoft Corporation  
Attorney's Docket No. .... MS1-1876US  
[Former Attorney Docket No.: MS146911.1/40062.0065-US-01]

Title: EVIDENCE-BASED SECURITY POLICY MANAGER

**REPLY TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION****DATED (MAILED) 08/10/2005****UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
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### INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In a previous and final Office Action dated 03/01/2005, claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56 were examined. Claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56 were rejected. A Reply to the 03/01/2005 Office Action was submitted. That Reply included claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56, some of which were amended. That Reply was entered after filing an RCE. A non-final Office Action that examined its claims was issued on 08/10/2005.

Thus, this current Reply is responsive to the current and non-final Office Action dated 08/10/2005. In this current Office Action, claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56 were examined, and claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56 continued to be rejected.

In the interim, an Examiner Interview was conducted on 11/08/2005. A summary of this Examiner Interview is provided below.

In this Reply, no claims are canceled or added. Hence, claims 1-25, 37-45, and 49-56 continue to be pending.

## SUMMARY OF EXAMINER INTERVIEW

On 11/08/2005, an Examiner Interview was conducted between Examiner Grigory Gurshman and Keith W. Saunders (Reg. No. 41,462).

As indicated on the submitted PTOL-413A ("Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form"), the Interview was directed toward all pending claims. The pending claims were rejected under Gong/Sun Microsystems Inc. (WO 99/30217). On the submitted PTOL-413A, Applicants asserted that "Gong does not describe or teach the merging of permission sets."

During the Interview, it is believed that Examiner Gurshman expressed the following: (1) It is probably correct that Gong fails to describe or suggest the merging of permission sets. (2) However, there might be some merging with regard to permissions generally in, for example, Windows® NT®. (3) If the Examiner is able to find any merging of permissions in the prior art, he does not expect it to occur in the context of code groups or code assemblies.